# John was a righteous and holy man MARK 6:20



This can be torn off and placed in the offering basket at the exits.

Name(s):

Attending 10:30 a.m.

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to add or update my email for the Messenger and other email updates. (Be sure to include email address changes below.)

\_\_\_\_ I/We would like to add or update my/our address for mailings. (Be sure to include address changes below)

Email:	 	
Phone:	 	
Address:	 	

Welcome! Whether you are a long-time member of St.
Matthew, a first-time visitor, or somewhere in between, we are thankful you are here today. If you have questions or need visual, audio, or mobility accommodations, please let a name-tagged usher know. We're excited about the many ministries of St.
Matt's, and we hope you'll find a way to plug in that makes sense for you!

**About today**: We gather as a community for worship around word, wine, and water. Put another way, in worship we meet Christ in scripture proclaimed in speech & song, in the sacraments of Holy Communion and Baptism celebrated or remembered, and in community gathered together.

Our regular weekend schedule includes Saturday worship at 5 p.m., Sunday drive-in (May through September 15) worship at 8:30 a.m., and Sunday indoor worship at 10:30 a.m. (livestreamed).

When Amos reports his vision of God judging Israel for its mistreatment of the poor, he becomes a threat to the power of the priests and the king. John the Baptist also speaks truth to power, and Herod has him killed. In Herod's fear that Jesus is John returned from the dead, we may hear hope for the oppressed: all the prophets killed through the ages are alive in Jesus. We are called to witness to justice in company with them, and to proclaim God's saving love.

#### 8<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost July 14, 2024

#### + Celebrating God's Love - Serving in Jesus' Name +

#### PRELUDE

Aria

Bowden

Dan Carson, Violin

#### WELCOME AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please stand as you are able.

#### **CONFESSION AND FORGIVENESS**

Pastor: Blessed be the holy Trinity, 🕂 one God, the God of manna, the God of miracles, the God of mercy.

#### All: Amen.

Pastor: Drawn to Christ and seeking God's abundance, let us confess our sin.

Silence is kept for reflection.

- Pastor: God, our provider,
  - All: help us.

It is hard to believe there is enough to share. We question your ways when they differ from the ways of the world in which we live. We turn to our own understanding rather than trusting in you. We take offense at your teachings and your ways. Turn us again to you. Where else can we turn? Share with us the words of eternal life and feed us for life in the world. Amen.

Pastor: Beloved people of God: in Jesus, the manna from heaven, you are fed and nourished. By Jesus, the worker of miracles, there is always more than enough. Through Jesus, I the bread of life, you are shown God's mercy: you are forgiven and loved into abundant life.

All: Amen.

**OPENING HYMN** 

Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing

ELW #807 Robinson/Wyeth



he, to res - cue me from dan - ger, in - ter - posed his pre-cious blood. Here's my heart, oh, take and seal it; seal it for thy courts a - bove.

#### APOSTOLIC GREETING

- Pastor: The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ, the love of God, and the communion of the Holy Spirit be with you all.
  - All: And also with you.

#### Please be seated.

Children ages 10 and under are invited to meet our children's leader at the baptismal font at the front of the Nave. She will take the children for Children's Church at the "Pray-ground" in the Fellowship Hall. They will hear a Bible story from this week's lectionary in an age-appropriate format and spend some time exploring their faith and creativity together. They will return during the passing of the peace.

#### PRAYER OF THE DAY

- Pastor: Let us pray. O God, from you come all holy desires, all good counsels, and all just works. Give to us, your servants, that peace which the world cannot give, that our hearts may be set to obey your commandments; and also that we, being defended from the fear of our enemies, may live in peace and quietness, through Jesus Christ, our Savior and Lord.
  - All: Amen.

#### PSALM 85:8-13

<sup>8</sup> I will listen to what the LORD God is saying;

for you speak peace to your faithful people and to those who turn their hearts to you.

# <sup>9</sup> Truly, your salvation is very near to those who fear you, that your glory may dwell in our land.

<sup>10</sup> Steadfast love and faithfulness have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other.

<sup>11</sup> Faithfulness shall spring up from the earth, and righteousness shall look down from heaven. <sup>12</sup> The LORD will indeed grant prosperity, and our land will yield its increase.

### <sup>13</sup> Righteousness shall go before the LORD and shall prepare for God a pathway.

**THE READING Ephesians 1:3-14** *In Jesus, all of God's plans and purposes have been made known as heaven and earth are united in Christ. Through Jesus, we have been chosen as God's children and have been promised eternal salvation.* 

Lector: The Word of the Lord.

All: Thanks be to God.

Please stand as you are able.



Pastor: The holy gospel according to Mark, the 6<sup>th</sup> chapter.All: Glory to you, O Lord.

**HOLY GOSPEL**: **Mark 6: 14-29** *As Jesus and his disciples begin to attract attention, Mark recalls the story of John the Baptist's martyrdom. Like John, Jesus and his disciples will also suffer at the hands of those opposed to the gospel of salvation.* 

> Pastor: The gospel of the Lord. All: Praise to you, O Christ.

Please be seated.

#### THE MESSAGE

Please stand as you are able.

#### CONFESSION OF FAITH Apostles' Creed

Assisting Minister: Let us confess our faith with the words of the Apostles' Creed.

All: I believe in God, the Father almighty, creator of heaven and earth. I believe in Jesus Christ, God's only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate. was crucified, died, and was buried: he descended to the dead. On the third day he rose again; he ascended into heaven, he is seated at the right hand of the Father, and he will come to judge the living and the dead. I believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy catholic church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting. Amen.

#### PRAYERS

Assisting Minister: Each petition concludes, "In your mercy," and the congregation responds, "hear our prayer."

#### PEACE

Pastor: The peace of the Lord be with you always.

All: And also with you.

(The congregation is invited to greet one another with the words "Peace be with you," and gestures respecting personal space and comfort levels.)

Children return from Children's Church.

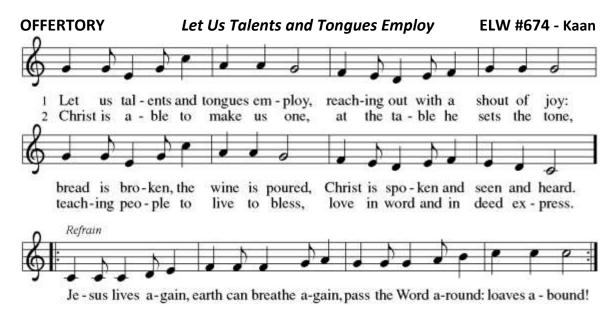
Please be seated.

# MUSICAL OFFERINGHere I Am, LordSchutteDan Carson, Violin; Ann Gruber, Flute; Deb Smith, Piano; Ben Boellner, Organ

#### **GENEROSITY MOMENT**

We celebrate God's generosity embodied in this community's time, talents, and treasures shared with one another. **Thank you for your presence** in worship today. **Thank you for offering** the "first fruits" of your finances. Offerings may be placed in the baskets near the entrances/exits of the worship space or through online giving on our website. **Thank you for sharing** your spiritual gifts with our church, local, and global communities.

Please stand as you are able.



9

#### **OFFERTORY PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Jesus, Bread of life,

All: you have set this table with your very self, and called us to the feast of plenty.
Gather what has been sown among us, and strengthen us in this meal.
Make us to be what we receive here, your body for the life of the world. Amen.

### THE MEAL

#### **GREAT THANKSGIVING**

- Pastor: The Lord be with you.
  - All: And also with you.
- Pastor: Lift up your hearts.
  - All: We lift them to the Lord.
- Pastor: Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.
  - All: It is right to give our thanks and praise.

#### EUCHARISTIC PRAYER WITH WORDS OF INSTITUTION

#### LORD'S PRAYER

- Pastor: Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray:
  - All: Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

#### INVITATION TO COMMUNION

Please be seated.

#### **DISTRIBUTION OF COMMUNION**

All are welcome to the Lord's Supper. The meal is served in several ways. Choose what is appropriate for you.

Individual packets are available for those wishing to remain in their pew.

*If you are unable to come forward*, but would like communion served by the pastor, please let one of the ushers know and the Sacrament will be brought to you at your seat.

**Continuous manner** – Come forward at the direction of the ushers, take the wafer from the pastor, "The body of Christ, given for you", and eat it. (Gluten-free wafers are available) Then move to the next station and take one of the cups of wine (red) or grape juice (white) "The blood of Christ, shed for you", and drink it.

*Children who do not yet receive communion* are invited to come forward to receive a blessing.

#### **IN-PEW COMMUNION**

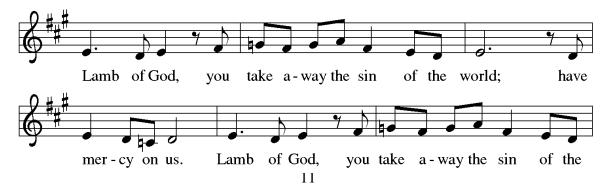
- Pastor: The body of Christ, given for you.
  - All: Amen. (Eat wafer)

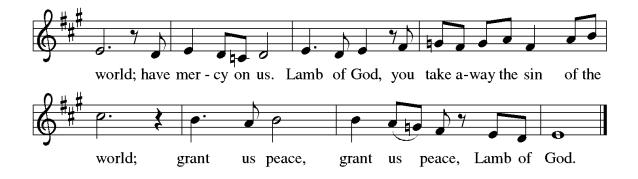
(Pause)

Pastor: The blood of Christ, shed for you.

All: Amen. (Drink wine)

#### LAMB OF GOD





COMMUNION HYMN

Just a Closer Walk with Thee

#### LBW #697

North American Traditional



Please stand as you are able.

#### **POST-COMMUNION BLESSING**

- Pastor: The body and blood of our Lord Jesus Christ strengthen you and keep you in his grace.
  - All: Amen.

#### **POST-COMMUNION PRAYER**

Assisting Minister: Let us pray. Jesus, Bread of life, we have received from your table more than we could ever ask. As you have nourished us in this meal, now strengthen us to love the world with your own life. In your name we pray.

#### All: Amen.

#### BLESSING

Pastor: The blessing of God, who provides for us, feeds us, and journeys with us, ⊕ be upon you now and forever.

- All: Amen.
- SENDING HYMN

#### Holy God, We Praise Your Name

#### ELW #414

Walworth/Gesangbuch

(Next Page)



#### DISMISSAL

Assisting Minister: Go in peace. You are the body of Christ.

#### All: Thanks be to God.

#### POSTLUDE

#### Toccata on Foundation

**Burkhardt** 

\* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Please note: Music for this service is covered under CCLI # 1000682 – Also #A-708989 One License.net

#### St. Matthew Lutheran Church



Scan for e-giving

Rev. Kathryn Vitalis Hoffman, Lead Pastor, ext. 231 pastorkathy@stmattlutheran.org Rev. Alex Sheppard-Witt, Associate Pastor, ext. 229 pastoralex@stmattlutheran.org Rev. Faye C. Snyder, Visitation Pastor, ext. 225 Benjamin Boellner, Minister of Music, ext. 235 bboellner@stmattlutheran.org Deb Smith, Associate Minister of Music, ext. 236 dsmith@stmattlutheran.org Tim Peck, Youth Ministry, ext. 230, youth@stmattlutheran.org, Melissa Smith, Children and Family Ministry Coordinator, ext. 232 msmith@stmattlutheran.org

Our warm thanks to all those assisting in our worship services this morning:

Musicians	Dan Carson, Violin; Ann Gruber, Flute
Altar Flower Delivery	Tina Schaffner
Altar Guild	Beth Koontz, Janice Peck
Assisting Minister	Diane Hoffman-Neail
Children's Church Leader	Melissa Smith
Communion Assistants	Pastor Phil and Sue Covert
Communion Preparers	Deb Anker, Diane Hoffman-Neail
Couriers	Roland Kunde, Charlie Lidard
Greeters	Kim Beard, Barry & Lori Unger
Lector	Charlie Lidard
Live Stream	Tom & Susie Shultz
Ushers Team 7 – John & Barb	Frederick Jr., Tom Bell, Grant Frederick, Lance Frederick, Deb Hansford

*THE ALTAR FLOWERS* have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Mr. and Mrs. Raymond L. Topper by the family.

**THE BULLETINS** have been given to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Terry Bell who passed away July 18, 2016 given by his wife Eleanor and family.

Attendance:	(07/06)	5:00 p.m. Service	40
	(07/07)	8:30 a.m. Service	75
		10:30 a.m. Service	110
	(07/01-0	7/07) Online views	128
		Total	

**RECOMMENDED SCRIPTURE READINGS** for the week beginning July 14:

Sunday: Mark 6:14-29	Thursday: Colossians 1:15-23
Monday: Acts: 21:27-39	Friday: Acts 17:16-31
Tuesday: Acts 23:12-35	Saturday: Luke 18:35-43
Wednesday: Luke 7:31-35	

**PRAYER LIST:** God hears and understands our prayers. Fully putting our trust in God, we lay our requests before him. Our next prayers are in gratitude, knowing that God is already at work in our situation. Names will stay on our Prayer List for a maximum of 30 days. If you would like us to remove your name sooner, please notify the office. You may also access our Prayer Chain by contacting Beth Koontz at 717-968-1207.

Loretta	Dane	Tom
Chris	Jeff	Susan
Linda	James	Ron
Linda	Vicki	Harold
Mike	Richard	Tom
Mike	Cheryl	Tom
Kim		

#### St. Matthew Lutheran Church July 14 - 21, 2024

Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Youth Leave for Gathering (New Orleans)	
Mon.	Devotional Biking/Walking Group	6:00-7:30 p.m.
Tues.	Cub Scouts (Gym)	6:00-8:00 p.m.
Wed.	Bible Study (Upper Room)	6:30 p.m.
	Boy Scouts	6:30-8:00 p.m.
Thurs.		
Fri.		
Sat.	Worship Service (Fellowship Hall)	5:00-6:00 p.m.
Sun.	Worship with Holy Communion (Parking Lot)	8:30 a.m.
	Soul Fire Rehearsal (Nave)	9:30-10:00 a.m.
	Worship with Holy Communion (Nave)	10:30 a.m.
	Youth return from Gathering	

# **MUSIC CAMP IS SOON HERE** (August 5-August 9) and we need snacks, snacks, and more snacks!

We are looking for the cheddar cheese goldfish crackers and Icee pops. We have 27 kiddos signed up so far, and there is room for more. Please drop donations off in the Gathering Place or at the church office by Friday, August 2.



We also could use some **youth helpers** for Music Camp, August 5-August 9 from 9:00 a.m.-11:00 a.m. Contact Deb Smith at *dsmith@stmattlutheran.org* if interested.



**THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS** of St. Matthew have been awarded scholarships: Fairy Straley and Millard and Helen Nace Scholarships were granted to Lea Coppola, Hunter Crabbs, Elizabeth Huston, Mya Maloney and Cole Smith; The J H Ehlers Scholarship was granted to Mike Jones and the George F. and Lelia Stouffer Scholarship was awarded to Gracie Troup.

The Scholarship Committee extends their congratulations and wishes for continued success as each of you continues to pursue your education.

**EXCITING NEWS!** After a rather long interview process we have recently filled two positions on our staff. Hannah Chiacchierini is our new Communications Administrator. This position is responsible for all communications within the



congregation and community. Our new Facility Operations Manager is Dave Brodbeck. He will be responsible for all operations related to our buildings and grounds. We extend a warm welcome to Hannah and Dave as they both assume their positions on July 22.



**OUR SUMMER BIBLE STUDY**, entitled "After Certainty" begins this week, **July 17, 24 & 31 at 6:30 p.m**. In this 3week series from Women of the ELCA, we will be exploring what it means to live in faith during times of uncertainty. From the introduction: "in these years of a worldwide pandemic, escalating climate change, political turmoil and a changing religious landscape, it may feel like the days of

predictability and stability are behind us. What will the future bring now?" Hope you can join us for this timely series!



**THIS SUNDAY, WE ARE HEADING TO NEW ORLEANS** for the Gathering. There are two adults, two young adults and four youth going this year. We would like to express our gratitude to everyone for their financial gifts and participation in our events leading up to this time. Over the coming week, while we travel and deepen our faith, kindly remember to pray for all of us. We will focus on missionary work with LutheranHANDS for the first three days of our visit, and then spend the remaining days with the 16,000 youth gathering at the event. While previously stated, please remember us in your prayers and thoughts while we perform mission work and walk a lot in the New Orleans intense heat.

We are using the Trip Cast App again for this trip. You can join us at the Gathering through pictures and videos when you enter this link *https://tripcast.co/i/9AJKAUP4* into your browser. You will be able to watch the Gathering and mission trip through every youth's and advisor's eyes because every one of us will have this app and be taking pictures. Make sure you don't miss anything from our trip and use the address above to follow us on our journey.

ALL ARE INVITED AS WE SHARE OUR GATHERING EXPERIENCES We would like to get together for some light snacks and to share our experiences from our mission trip and the Gathering after we return. We will share our favorite memories and what we brought home with us from this amazing trip. We might even get to share one of our Mass Gathering evenings with speakers and music. To share our experiences with you, we would like to extend an invitation for an evening together to everyone on July 25 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to listen and see the excitement that was brought back from New Orleans!

July 14-16 Lutheran Hands Pre-Gathering Mission TripJuly 16-21 is ELCA Gathering in New OrleansJuly 28-August 3 is Youth Leadership Training (LT) Camp

### YOUTH NEWS Continued

Join us for **Summer Youth Connections** on Sunday evenings **August 4 & August 18,** from 6-8:00 p.m. in room 304. Event details and information about events added will be sent via Remind so if you are not currently receiving notifications, email Tim at *youth@stmattlutheran.org* with your name and mobile phone number with questions or to be added.



Youth Alumni: Welcome Back!

**Calling all Youth Alumni!** There will be a lock-in for all Youth Alumni beginning at 6 p.m. on Saturday, August 3, to Sunday morning, August 4 at 8:00 a.m. The lock-in will be held in the Youth Room, 304. Let Tim know if you can attend, youth@stmattlutheran.org

*SAVE THE DATE* Wednesday, August 14, the next blood drive will be held by the Central PA Blood Bank. Schedule appointments online at *717GIVEBLOOD.org* or by phone 1-800-771-0059.



VISIT SITES OF PAUL AND REVELATION IN JANUARY 2025 Pastor Mark is leading a tour to Turkey and Greece in January 2025 that includes many incredible biblical, historical and cultural sites. It is a trip connected with United Lutheran Seminary, but it is open to anyone. We cover a lot of ground and do a lot of walking, but it is an amazing experience at a great price for an 18-day trip. I hope you can join us! More information is at: CrossMarks.com/2025TurkeyGreece



**MUSIC FOR THE HOMEBOUND** Ben Boellner and Deb Smith would like to provide music for our homebound congregation members. Deb or Ben will go to their home and play music for about 1/2 hour. They will bring their own keyboard. If you are interested or

know someone who is interested, please call the church office at 717-637-7101 and leave your name and phone number.



- Are you already a member of the Adult Music Ministry?
- Would you like to be part of the Adult Music Ministry and want to know more?
- Join us on Thursday, August 29 at 6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for an Adult Music Ministry Mixer.
- Food, fellowship, singing and ringing.

as long as I live. If you have any questions, please reach out to Ben at bboellner@stmattlutheran.org or Deb at dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

# ST. MATTHEW MUSIC CAMP

- August 5-9, 9:00-11 a.m. in Fellowship Hall
- Children ages 5-12
- Music, games, fun, food! And Camp is FREE.
- MUSICAL will be presented Sunday, September 15, 9:30 a.m.
- register on the website, www.stmattlutheran.org For questions, contact Deb Smith, dsmith@stmattlutheran.org

## Join us for Noah's Rockin' Ark Adventure

JOIN US for an OLD FASHIONED HYMN SING on Sunday, August 11, at 4 p.m. This is in partnership with Grace UCC in Hanover. Ben Boellner and Christian Keller will be leading this fun event. There will be a plethora of favorites to sing! We are also looking for anyone who wants to sing in the mass choir for this event. There will be 2 rehearsals. Wednesday, July 24 at 7:30 p.m. in the Nave as well as Wednesday, August 7 at 7:30 p.m. Please see Ben If you are interested. We will provide the music and practice CDs.



will sing to the LORĎ



### Donations needed for Hogar Miquel Orphanage in Guatemala

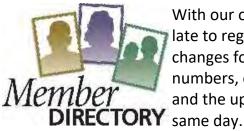


We are going back to Guatemala this year and they have given us a list of needed items. If anyone would like to donate some of these things, it would be greatly appreciated. Cash donations can be used to purchase items in Guatemala as well. Please make checks payable to *St. Matthew Lutheran Church* and write *Guatemala* in

the memo line or scan QR code for online giving. All items and monies due by July 21. Thanks for your support and prayers.

- Chewable Vitamin C for children
- Chewable Probiotics for little kids
- Probiotics for big kids (probably adult would be fine)
- Liquid or chewable ibuprofen (generic is fine)
- Children's chewable multivitamins
- Adult multivitamins
- Foot fungus spray
- Calamine lotion/cream

Thank you and God bless, Bobbie and Charley Lidard



With our on-line *Instant Church Directory*, it's never too late to register for inclusion in the directory; and changes for your listing for things like addresses, phone numbers, email, even photos may be done at any time and the updates appear on your listing typically the same day.

Our plan is to print an updated spiral bound directory sometime around Labor Day or shortly after. That gives everyone time to get their fam together during vacay, summer picnics, or after worship on Sunday for the latest and greatest family pic. If you don't have a digital picture, no problem; I am happy to meet with you a take your picture for the directory....FREE !



Directory registration forms may be found on the Hospitality Desk in the Gathering Place. Please complete the form front & back, and place in the offering basket or return to the church office. If you have any questions or need assistance, please feel free to contact: Mike Jones, email: *majones91914@outlook.com* or cell, 717-965-6680. No need to fill out a form if your information is already in the online directory and is all correct. You can update your picture at any time!

**Our bulletins** serve as an excellent week-long resource with prayers, scripture and important information regarding our congregation's ministries. Recycle bins are at the doors for the bulletins that are not taken home.

**HACC Needs Volunteers!** Among other opportunities, HACC needs help as volunteer drivers and runners for Meals-On-Wheels. For more information on these and all volunteer opportunities, visit *www.hanoverareacouncilof churches.org* or call 717-633-6353.

**Provide-A-Lunch**: Cans of mixed veggies, corn, green beans, peas and carrots; bags of potatoes and scalloped potatoes; Oils, vegetable, olive, spray oil and butter; Dry goods, sugar and salt; Milk; Snacks; Tea bags or iced tea bags; Grocery and/or shopping bags

Ruth's Harvest: Single serve fruit cups, cereals, granola bars

**Meals-On-Wheels**: Handkerchiefs; No-rinse bathing wipes; bath gloves; no-slip socks; journal books; puzzles-NO mini pieces, 300-500 pieces at most

**Changing Lives Shelter**: hygiene and toiletry products such as shampoo, conditioner, soap, body wash; Clorox wipes; kitchen trash bags; Ziploc bags (sandwich and gallon sizes)

#### FIRST READING: Amos 7:7-15

This is what [the Lord GoD] showed me: the Lord was standing beside a wall built with a plumb line, with a plumb line in his hand. <sup>8</sup>And the LORD said to me, "Amos, what do you see?" And I said, "A plumb line." Then the Lord said,

"See, I am setting a plumb line in the midst of my people Israel;

I will never again pass them by;

<sup>9</sup>the high places of Isaac shall be made desolate, and the sanctuaries of Israel shall be laid waste, and I will rise against the house of Jeroboam with the sword."

<sup>10</sup>Then Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, sent to King Jeroboam of Israel, saying, "Amos has conspired against you in the very center of the house of Israel; the land is not able to bear all his words. <sup>11</sup>For thus Amos has said,

'Jeroboam shall die by the sword,

and Israel must go into exile

away from his land.'"

<sup>12</sup>And Amaziah said to Amos, "O seer, go, flee away to the land of Judah, earn your bread there, and prophesy there; <sup>13</sup>but never again prophesy at Bethel, for it is the king's sanctuary, and it is a temple of the kingdom."

<sup>14</sup>Then Amos answered Amaziah, "I am no prophet, nor a prophet's son; but I am a herdsman, and a dresser of sycamore trees, <sup>15</sup>and the LORD took me from following the flock, and the LORD said to me, 'Go, prophesy to my people Israel.'"

#### Psalm 85:8-13

#### SECOND READING: Ephesians 1:3-14

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, <sup>4</sup>just as he chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world to be holy and blameless before him in love. <sup>5</sup>He destined us for adoption as his children through Jesus Christ, according to the good pleasure of his will, <sup>6</sup>to the praise of his glorious grace that he freely bestowed on us in the Beloved. <sup>7</sup>In him we have redemption through his blood, the forgiveness of our trespasses, according to the riches of his grace <sup>8</sup>that he lavished on us. With all wisdom and insight <sup>9</sup>he has made known to us the mystery of his will, according to his good pleasure that he set forth in Christ, <sup>10</sup>as a plan for the fullness of time, to gather up all things in him, things in heaven and things on earth. <sup>11</sup>In Christ we have also obtained an inheritance, having been destined according to the purpose of him who accomplishes all things according to his counsel and will, <sup>12</sup>so that we, who were the first to set our hope on Christ, might live for the praise of his glory. <sup>18</sup>In him you also, when you had heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and had believed in him, were marked with the seal of the promised Holy Spirit; <sup>14</sup>this is the pledge of our inheritance toward redemption as God's own people, to the praise of his glory.

#### GOSPEL: Mark 6:14-29

King Herod heard of [the disciples' preaching], for Jesus' name had become known. Some were saying, "John the baptizer has been raised from the dead; and for this reason these powers are at work in him." <sup>15</sup>But others said, "It is Elijah." And others said, "It is a prophet, like one of the prophets of old." <sup>16</sup>But when Herod heard of it, he said, "John, whom I beheaded, has been raised."

<sup>17</sup>For Herod himself had sent men who arrested John, bound him, and put him in prison on account of Herodias, his brother Philip's wife, because Herod had married her. <sup>18</sup>For John had been telling Herod, "It is not lawful for you to have your brother's wife." <sup>19</sup>And Herodias had a grudge against him, and wanted to kill him. But she could not, 20 for Herod feared John, knowing that he was a righteous and holy man, and he protected him. When he heard him, he was greatly perplexed; and yet he liked to listen to him. <sup>21</sup>But an opportunity came when Herod on his birthday gave a banquet for his courtiers and officers and for the leaders of Galilee. <sup>22</sup>When his daughter Herodias came in and danced, she pleased Herod and his guests; and the king said to the girl, "Ask me for whatever you wish, and I will give it." <sup>23</sup>And he solemnly swore to her, "Whatever you ask me, I will give you, even half of my kingdom." <sup>24</sup>She went out and said to her mother, "What should I ask for?" She replied, "The head of John the baptizer." <sup>25</sup>Immediately she rushed back to the king and requested, "I want you to give me at once the head of John the Baptist on a platter." <sup>26</sup>The king was deeply grieved; yet out of regard for his oaths and for the guests, he did not want to refuse her. 27Immediately the king sent a soldier of the guard with orders to bring John's head. He went and beheaded him in the prison, <sup>28</sup>brought his head on a platter, and gave it to the girl. Then the girl gave it to her mother. 29 When his disciples heard about it, they came and took his body, and laid it in a tomb.

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Next Sunday's Readings: Jeremiah 23:1-6; Psalm 23; Ephesians 2:11-22; Mark 6:30-34, 53-56.

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